

SCIENTIFIC REINVESTIGATION
OF THE ROCK ART AT
GUA TAMBUN, PERAK
Vol 2: Inventory of Rock Art

by

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INTRODUCTION

This volume is a catalogue of all 640 rock art elements recorded at Gua Tambun during the course of this study and serves as a visual record of the rock art at Gua Tambun as of 2009. It may prove to be a valuable reference for future researchers for comparisons with other rock art found in the region, and in tracking the effects of weathering and deterioration of individual paintings at the site.

The rock art is distributed into 11 panels, labelled A - K, with the largest panel, Panel C, being further divided into 22 sub-panels. The rock art in each panel are numbered sequentially, generally from left-to-right and top to bottom. In most cases, each element was recorded with an IFRAO standard scale; in visual records where no scale is present, an approximate scale was drawn into the digital tracing. However, there were no direct or indirect measurements taken from Panels B, I and J due to their physical inaccessibility. For these panels, a reference measurement was estimated from one element and then transposed onto the rest of the elements.

Each element is represented by a primary reference photo (the largest image), a digital tracing (in black), and in most cases, a digitally-enhanced image using decorrelation stretch (with the stretch matrix denoted in the element description). The following reference data, also found in Appendix A of Volume I is also listed:

Category and Type: Typology and categorisation based on classification system described in Chapter 4 of Volume 1. The six basic categories are Abstract, Anthropomorph, Fruit, Geometric, Zoomorph and Indeterminate.

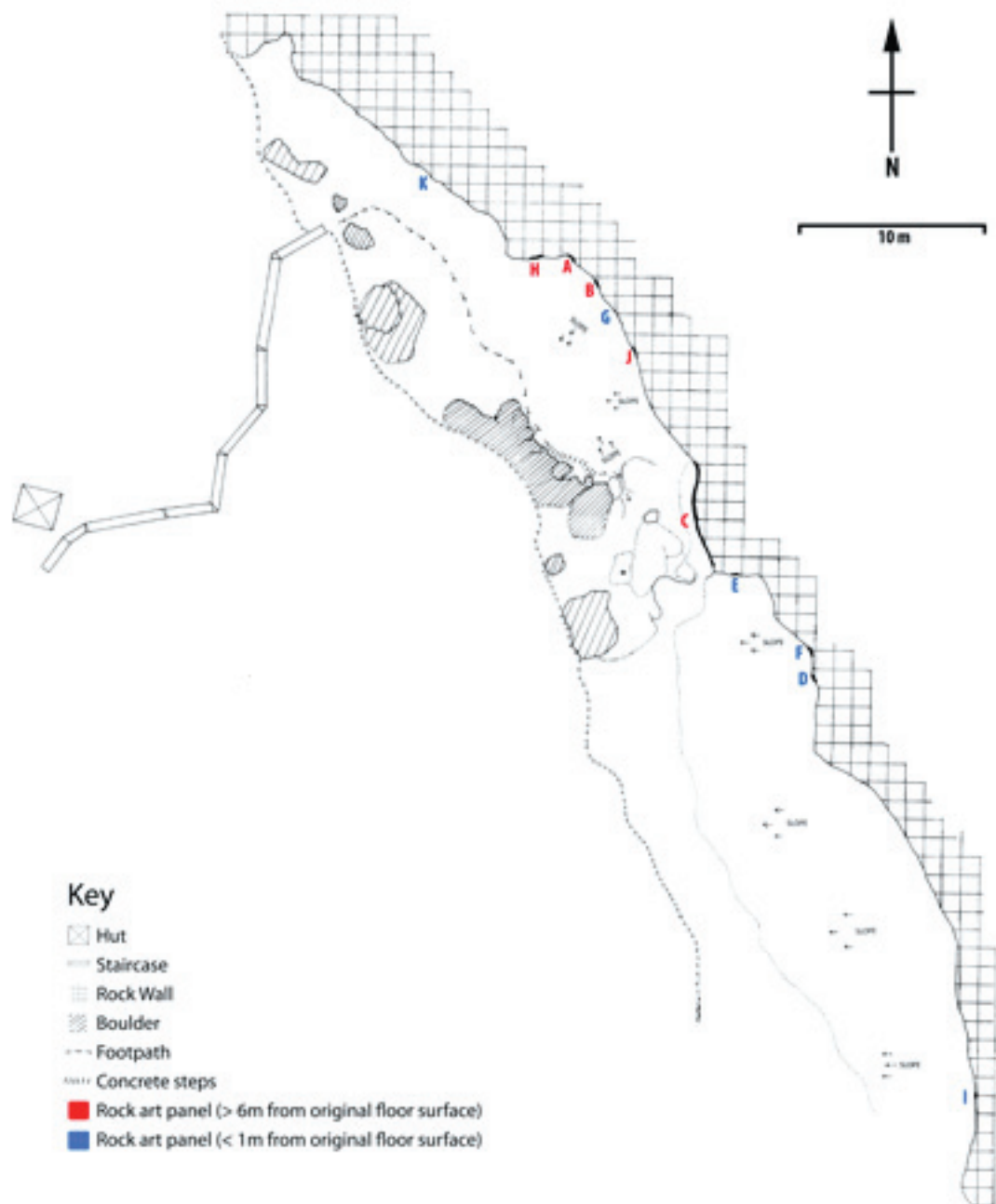


Figure 1: Map of Gua Tambun site and position of rock art.

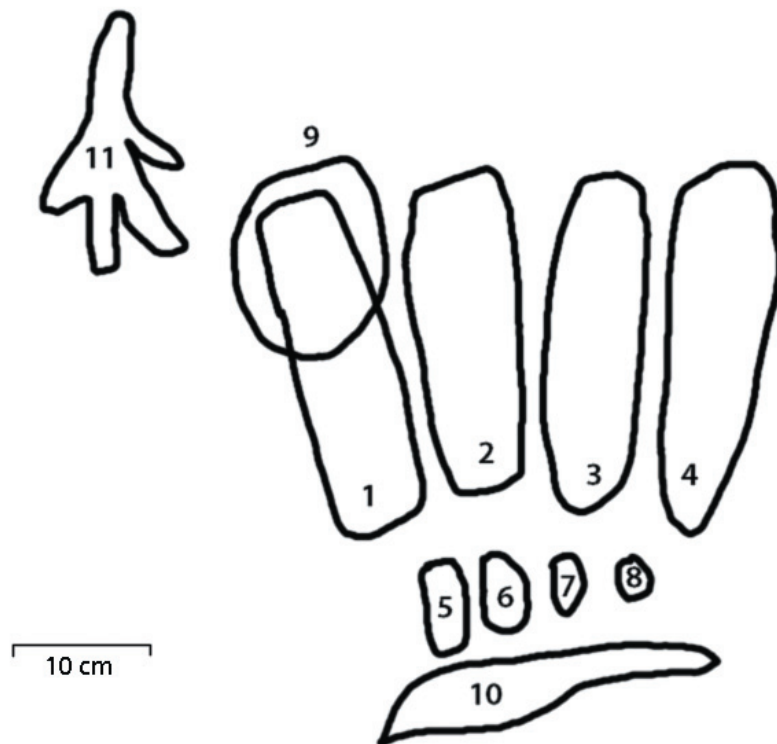
Colour: Two colour descriptions are offered. First, a general colour is described (Orange, Red, Purple or White). Where recorded, a Munsell colour code is also included. While care was taken to obtain a precise colour quantification for the paintings, accuracy was difficult to determine because of the inaccessibility of some paintings, as well as changing light conditions at the site depending on the time of day or the weather.

Dimensions: Elevation off the floor level, width, height and surface area are listed. The width and height are derived from drawing an imaginary box around the element which is parallel from the ground and taking the measurements from the sides of the box. Surface area measurements are derived from the digital tracings.

Preservation: Each element is first described as ‘Good’ or ‘Poor’ as a general indicator of how visible the element is to the naked eye. This qualitative indicator is suffixed by quantitative characteristics to describe the kind of damage suffered by the rock art, such as exfoliation, fading and water wash.

Layering and Superimpositions: In the case of Panels A, C and D, the layer and superimpositioning of elements are also listed.

PANEL A



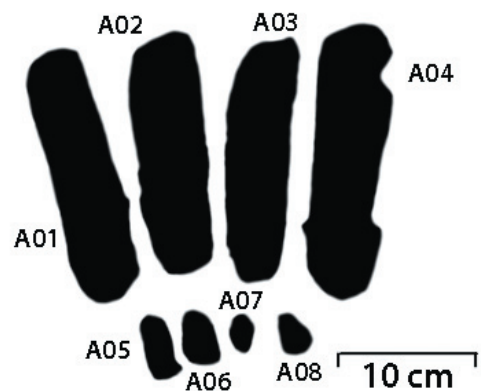
Panel A is a small series of rock paintings approximately nine metres above the floor. A number of faded paintings were discovered using digital enhancement, and there may be potentially be other paintings in the surrounding area. This element was recorded using pole and zoom photography.

A01-A08



A01

Category: Geometric
 Type: 59
 Colour: Purple
 Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
 Elevation (approx): 9 m
 Dimensions (w x h): 8.2 x 18.8cm
 Surface area: 84.13cm²
 Preservation: Good
 Layer: A2
 Superimpositions: Over A09
 Decorrelation Stretch matrix: ybk



A02

Category: Geometric
 Type: 59
 Colour: Purple
 Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
 Elevation (approx): 9 m
 Dimensions (w x h): 6.2 x 17.7 cm
 Surface area: 81.20 cm²
 Preservation: Good
 Layer: A2
 Superimpositions: None
 Decorrelation Stretch matrix: ybk

A03

Category: Geometric
 Type: 59
 Colour: Purple
 Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
 Elevation (approx): 9 m
 Dimensions (w x h): 5.4 x 17.9 cm
 Surface area: 74.37 cm²
 Preservation: Good
 Layer: A2
 Superimpositions: None
 Decorrelation Stretch matrix: ybk

A04

Category: Geometric
 Type: 59
 Colour: Purple
 Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
 Elevation (approx): 9 m
 Dimensions (w x h): 6.8 x 20.1 cm
 Surface area: 97.14 cm²
 Preservation: Good
 Layer: A2
 Superimpositions: None
 Decorrelation Stretch matrix: ybk

A05

Category: Geometric
 Type: 65
 Colour: Purple
 Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
 Elevation (approx): 9 m
 Dimensions (w x h): 3.3 x 4.8 cm
 Surface area: 9.79 cm²
 Preservation: Good
 Layer: A2
 Superimpositions: None
 Decorrelation Stretch matrix: ybk

A06

Category: Geometric
 Type: 65
 Colour: Purple
 Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
 Elevation (approx): 9 m
 Dimensions (w x h): 3.0 x 4.1 cm
 Surface area: 9.11 cm²
 Preservation: Good
 Layer: A2
 Superimpositions: None
 Decorrelation Stretch matrix: ybk

A07

Category: Geometric
 Type: 65
 Colour: Purple
 Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
 Elevation (approx): 9 m
 Dimensions (w x h): 2.0 x 3.1 cm
 Surface area: 4.49 cm²
 Preservation: Good
 Layer: A2
 Superimpositions: None
 Decorrelation Stretch matrix: ybk

A08

Category: Geometric
 Type: 65
 Colour: Purple
 Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
 Elevation (approx): 9 m
 Dimensions (w x h): 2.7 x 3.2 cm
 Surface area: 5.80 cm²
 Preservation: Good
 Layer: A2
 Superimpositions: None
 Decorrelation Stretch matrix: ybk

Notes

A01-A08 collectively form a row of four 'exclamation points'. There appears to be a white patina forming over these paintings.

A09

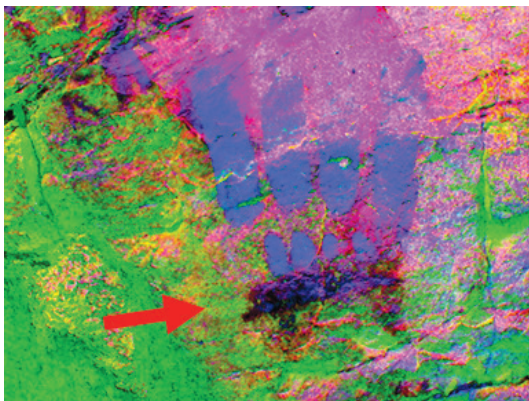


10 cm

Category: Geometric
Type: 64
Colour: Red
Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
Elevation (approx): 9 m
Dimensions (w x h): 11.7 x 8.6 cm
Surface area: 76.12 cm²
Preservation: Poor, faded
Layer: A1
Superimpositions: Under A01
Decorrelation Stretch matrix: ybk

Notes
A09 was discovered after digital enhancement and is superimposed under A01.

A10

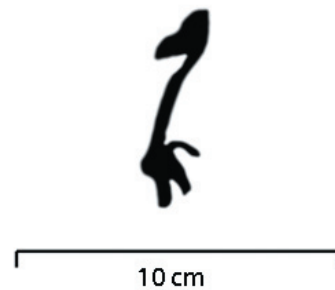
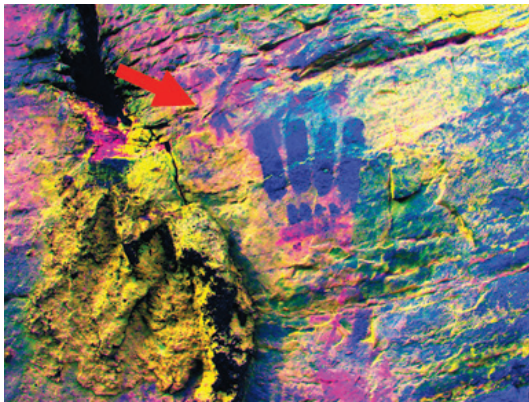


10 cm

Category: Abstract
Type: 16
Colour: Red
Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
Elevation (approx): 9 m
Dimensions (w x h): 21.3 x 7.4 cm
Surface area: 67.68 cm²
Preservation: Poor, faded
Layer: A1
Superimpositions: None
Decorrelation Stretch matrix: crgb

Notes
A10 was discovered after digital enhancement and lies underneath A05-A08.

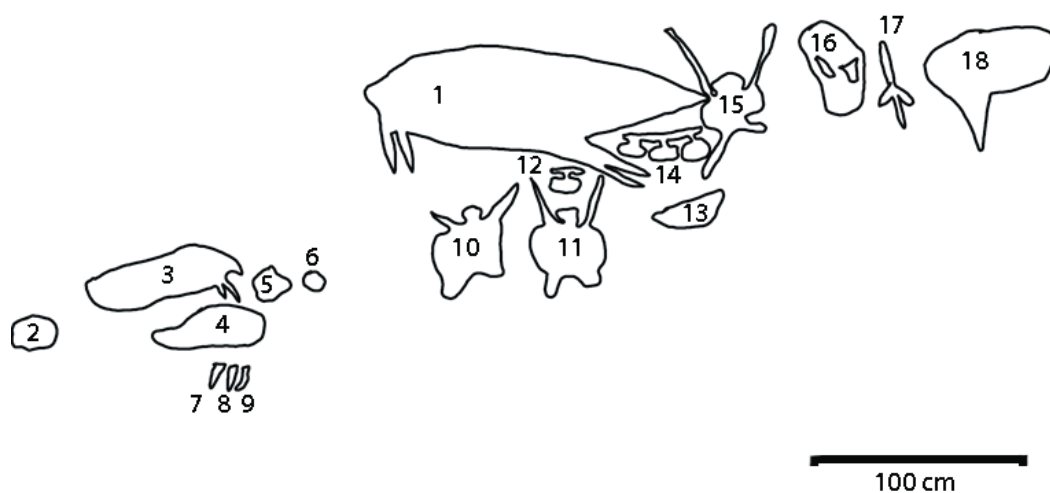
A11



Category: Abstract
Type: 16
Colour: Red
Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
Elevation (approx): 9 m
Dimensions (w x h): 2.1 x 6.1 cm
Surface area: 4.45 cm²
Preservation: Poor, faded
Layer: A1
Superimpositions: None
Decorrelation Stretch matrix: ybk

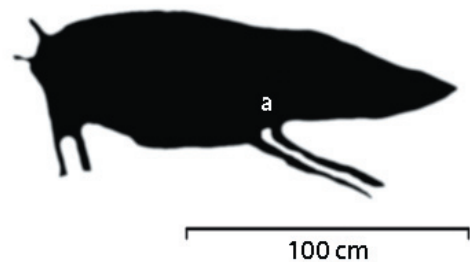
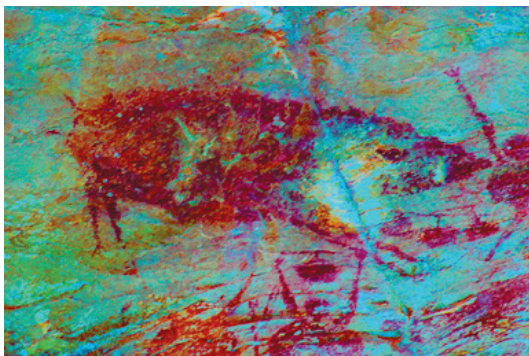
Notes
A11 appears to be shaped like an anthropomorph with an elongated neck, however, without closer examination this element has been categorised as an abstract painting.

PANEL B



Panel B is the highest panel in the site, due to the fact that the floor below it has been excavated. Due to its height and the shallowness of the rock shelter, images were recorded using zoom photography. The scale in Panel B is estimated based on the length of B01 = 150 cm.

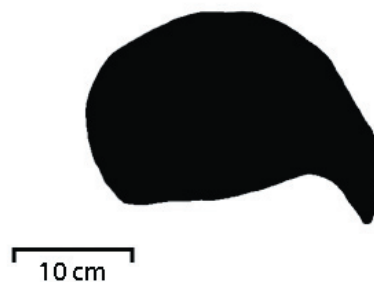
B01



Category: Zoomorph
Type: 76
Colour: Red
Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
Elevation (approx): 23 m
Dimensions (w x h): 159.6 x 66.0 cm
Surface area: 5826.76 cm²
Preservation: Poor, fading and exfoliation
Layer: B2
Superimpositions: None
Decorrelation Stretch matrix: Ire

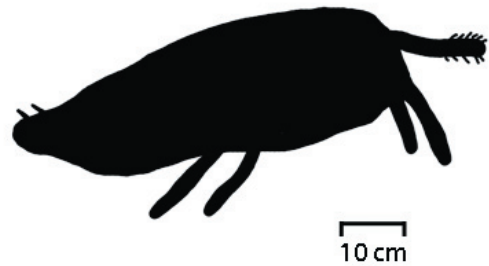
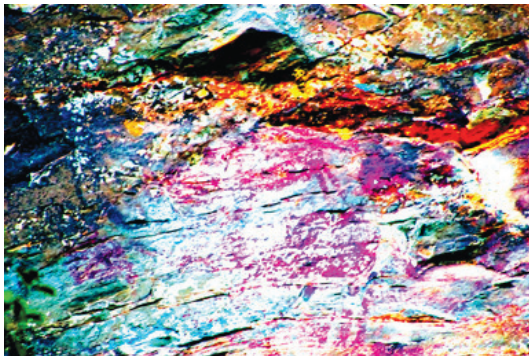
Notes
Possible depiction of a 'wild boar' or some other large land mammal. The zoomorph is large compared to the anthropomorphs adjacent to it. A significant portion of the shoulder appears to have exfoliated (a).

B02



Category: Geometric
Type: 64
Colour: Red
Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
Elevation (approx): 23 m
Dimensions (w x h): 25.6 x 19.2 cm
Surface area: 325.51 cm²
Preservation: Poor, fading
Layer: B2
Superimpositions: None
Decorrelation Stretch matrix: ybk

B03



Category: Zoomorph

Type: 79

Colour: Red

Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette

Elevation (approx): 23 m

Dimensions (w x h): 74.75 x 39.05 cm

Surface area: 1311.37 cm²

Preservation: Poor, fading

Layer: B2

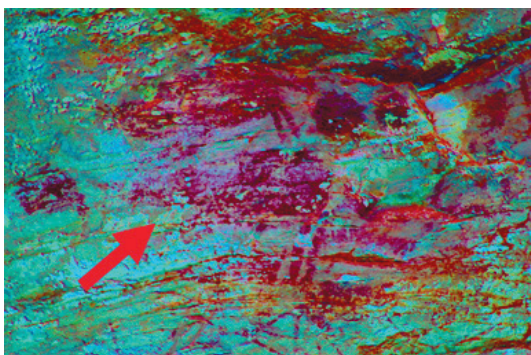
Superimpositions: None

Decorrelation Stretch matrix: lab

Notes

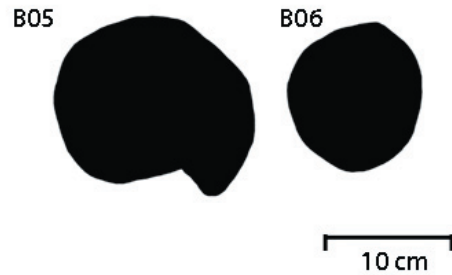
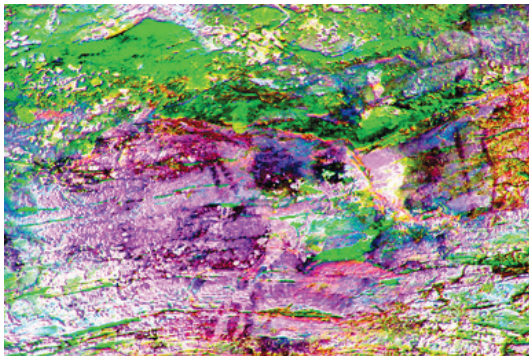
Appears to be a four-legged animal, probably mammalian, with a brushed or bushy tail and depictions of ears. Possible identifications include treeshrew or squirrel. Frontal sections heavily weathered.

B04



Category: Indeterminate
Type: None
Colour: Red
Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
Elevation (approx): 23 m
Dimensions (w x h): 85.1 x 31.5 cm
Surface area: 1481.00 cm²
Preservation: Poor, fading and exfoliation
Layer: B2
Superimpositions: None
Decorrelation Stretch matrix: lre

B05-B06



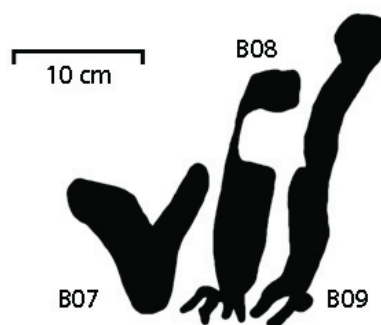
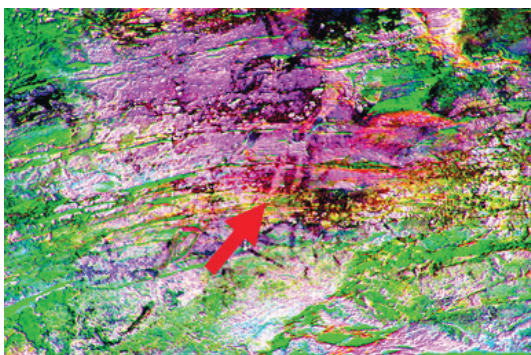
B05

Category: Geometric
Type: 64
Colour: Red
Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
Elevation (approx): 23 m
Dimensions (w x h): 16.9 x 15.2 cm
Surface area: 203.48 cm²
Preservation: Good
Layer: B2
Superimpositions: None
Decorrelation Stretch matrix: crgb

B06

Category: Geometric
Type: 64
Colour: Red
Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
Elevation (approx): 23 m
Dimensions (w x h): 11.1 x 12.1 cm
Surface area: 101.63 cm²
Preservation: Poor, fading and exfoliation
Layer: B2
Superimpositions: None
Decorrelation Stretch matrix: crgb

B07-B09



B07

Category: Abstract

Type: 15

Colour: Red

Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette

Elevation (approx): 23 m

Dimensions (w x h): 11.07 x 12.68 cm

Surface area: 38.92 cm²

Preservation: Poor, fading

Layer: B2

Superimpositions: None

Decorrelation Stretch matrix: crgb

B08

Category: Abstract

Type: 15

Colour: Red

Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette

Elevation (approx): 23 m

Dimensions (w x h): 8.9 x 23.2 cm

Surface area: 72.40 cm²

Preservation: Poor, fading and exfoliation

Layer: B2

Superimpositions: None

Decorrelation Stretch matrix: crgb

B09

Category: Abstract

Type: 15

Colour: Red

Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette

Elevation (approx): 23 m

Dimensions (w x h): 9.3 x 26.4 cm

Surface area: 76.58 cm²

Preservation: Poor, fading and exfoliation

Layer: B2

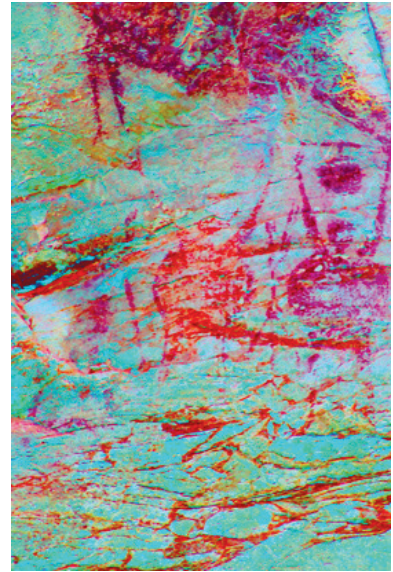
Superimpositions: None

Decorrelation Stretch matrix: crgb

Notes

All three forms appear to be heavily weathered and fragmentary. B08 and B09 appear to be the hands or claws of some animal, and look similar to C493 and C494.

B10



10 cm

Category: Anthropomorph
Type: 30
Colour: Red
Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
Elevation (approx): 23 m
Dimensions (w x h): 73.3 x 63.7 cm
Surface area: 1180.74 cm²
Preservation: Poor, fading
Layer: B1
Superimpositions: None
Decorrelation Stretch matrix: Ire

Notes

This anthropomorphic figure is similar to the other anthropomorphs in the panel, but unusual in that it is coloured differently from the other paintings in this panel. Its colouring within the panel suggests that some significance within the entire panel.

B11

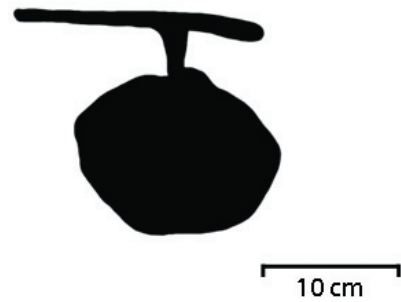
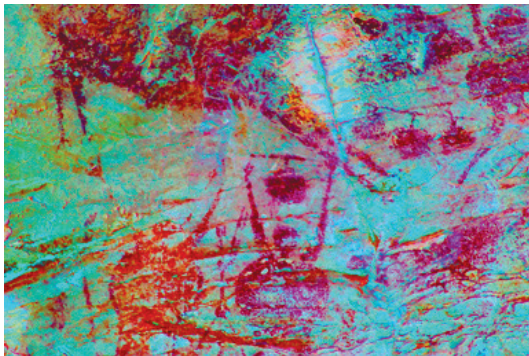


Category: Anthropomorph
Type: 30
Colour: Red
Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
Elevation (approx): 23 m
Dimensions (w x h): 33.8 x 83.5 cm
Surface area: 1135.60 cm²
Preservation: Good
Layer: B2
Superimpositions: None
Decorrelation Stretch matrix: crgb

Notes

B11 appears to be carrying a 'pot' or 'fruit' (B12) between the upraised arms.

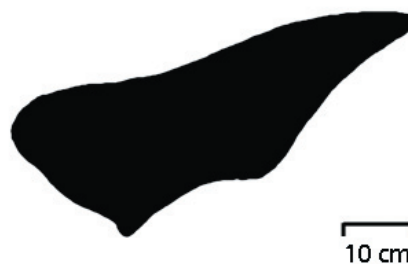
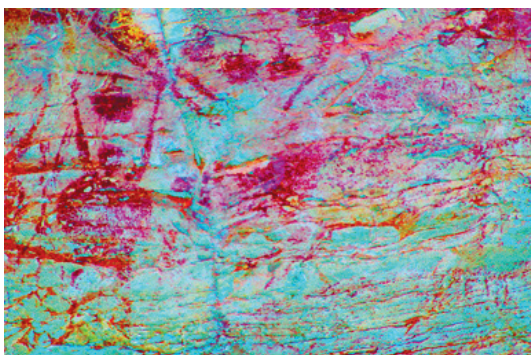
B12



Category: Abstract
Type: 3
Colour: Red
Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
Elevation (approx): 23 m
Dimensions (w x h): 15.4 x 12.2 cm
Surface area: 117.52 cm²
Preservation: Good
Layer: B2
Superimpositions: None
Decorrelation Stretch matrix: Ire

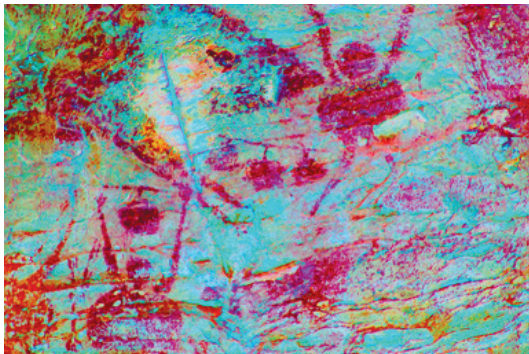
Notes
Possible 'pot' or 'fruit' depiction. Appears to be carried between B11's up-raised arms.

B13



Category: Indeterminate
Type: None
Colour: Red
Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
Elevation (approx): 23 m
Dimensions (w x h): 58.3 x 30.6 cm
Surface area: 863.42 cm²
Preservation: Poor, fading
Layer: B2
Superimpositions: None
Decorrelation Stretch matrix: Ire

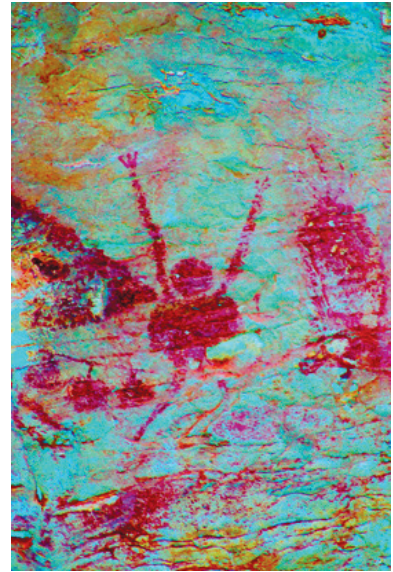
B14



Category: Abstract
Type: 3
Colour: Red
Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
Elevation (approx): 23 m
Dimensions (w x h): 41.8 x 19.1 cm
Surface area: 302.71 cm²
Preservation: Good
Layer: B2
Superimpositions: None
Decorrelation Stretch matrix: Ire

Notes
A row of 'pot' or 'fruit' figures, similar to B12.

B15

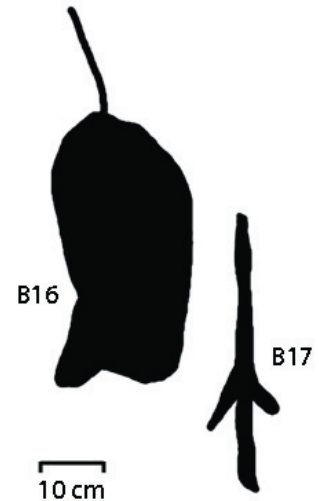
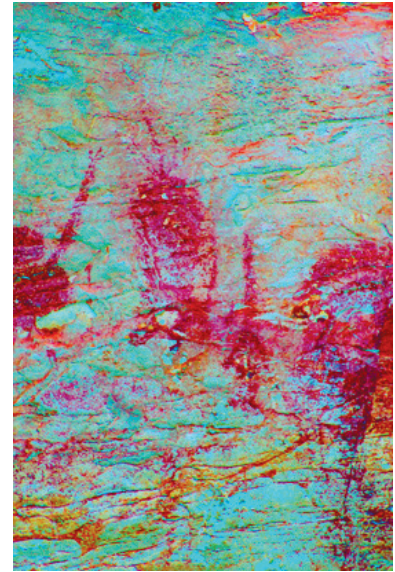


Category: Anthropomorph
Type: 30
Colour: Red
Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette
Elevation (approx): 23 m
Dimensions (w x h): 50.1 x 92.1 cm
Surface area: 1013.82 cm²
Preservation: Good, exfoliation
Layer: B2
Superimpositions: None
Decorrelation Stretch matrix: lre

Notes

From far, B01 and B15 looked joined as one as a horned animal. Digital enhancement reveals that B15 is a typical Panel B anthropomorph, with a rounded body shape and upraised arms.

B16-B17



B16

Category: Fruit

Type: None

Colour: Red

Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette

Elevation (approx): 23 m

Dimensions (w x h): 33.8 x 72.3 cm

Surface area: 1181.99 cm²

Preservation: Poor, fading

Layer: B2

Superimpositions: None

Decorrelation Stretch matrix: lre

B17

Category: Indeterminate

Type: None

Colour: Red

Drawing Style: Solid Silhouette

Elevation (approx): 23 m

Dimensions (w x h): 11.9 x 50.4 cm

Surface area: 151.59 cm²

Preservation: Poor, fading

Layer: B2

Superimpositions: None

Decorrelation Stretch matrix: lre